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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/064,707	08/08/2002	Masahiro Hasebe	086142-0532	1883
22428	7590	06/17/2005	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			ROSENBERG, LAURA B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3616	

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/064,707

Applicant(s)

HASEBE, MASAHIRO

Examiner

Laura B. Rosenberg

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed 23 March 2005, in which claims 8 and 11 were amended and claims 13-15 were added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 2-6 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeda et al. (5,577,765). Takeda et al. disclose an air bag (#1) comprising:

- Rear section (left section in figure 4a)
- Front section (right section in figure 4a)
- Gas inlet (opening in base panel #20A near connecting panels #21) disposed in the rear section (best seen in figure 4a)
- Connecting piece (including ends #10a, 10b and #23) located inside the air bag and connecting the front section to the rear section (best seen in figure 4a)
- Outer sheet of the air bag being formed by a rear panel (including #20A) having the gas inlet, and a plurality of front panels (including #10A, 10B) connected to form the front section

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- Extending piece (including ends of #10A, 10B near #10a, 10b) extends from one of the front panels (extending piece extending from each front panel) into the air bag (best seen in figure 4a)
- Extending piece and the rear section being connected by a mid panel (including #23)
- Connecting piece being formed by the extending piece (including ends #10a, 10b) and the mid panel (including #23)
- Front panels include a front upper panel (#10A) and a front lower panel (#10B)
- Front upper panel including a body portion (for example, central and right side portion of #10A as seen in figures 4a, 7), the extending piece formed integrally with the body portion (best seen in figure 4a)
- An edge (for example, rear edge of front lower panel #10B near where #10B meets mid panel #20B and front upper panel #10A) of the front lower panel being connected to a boundary portion (portion of air bag near where front upper panel #10A meets mid panel #20B) between the body portion and the extending piece (best seen in figure 4a)
- Extending piece has an opening (including #25) through which gas circulates (best seen with arrows in figure 4a)
- Connection portion (including rear part of seam #10c) between the boundary portion and the edge of the front lower panel being placed inside the air bag (best seen in figure 4a)

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- Top portion of the front upper panel, side portions on both sides thereof, and side portions on both sides of the front lower panel being positioned on sides of the airbag (best seen in figures 4a, 6, 7)
- Top portion of the front upper panel being connected to rear panel on an upper surface of the air bag (best seen in figures 4a, 6, 7)
- Side portions of the front upper panel and side portions of the front lower panel being connected to the rear panel on sides of the air bag (best seen in figures 4a, 6, 7)
- Lower edge of the front lower panel being connected to the rear panel at a bottom of the air bag (best seen in figures 4a, 6, 7)
- Connection portion between the front upper panel and the rear panel and a connecting portion between the front lower panel and the rear panel being placed inside the air bag (connection portions include ends #10a and extending piece #23)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda et al. (5,577,765) in view of Okada et al. (6,439,606). Takeda et al. disclose a passenger-side air bag (#1) comprising:

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- Front section (right section in figure 4a) including a pair of front panels (including #10A, 10B) forming an exterior surface
- Both front panels being positioned to face a passenger when the air bag deploys (best seen in figures 6, 7)
- One of the front panels (either front panel) including an integrally formed rearward extending section (including ends of #10A, 10B near #10a, 10b) located inside the air bag and connecting the front section to a rear section (left section in figure 4a)
- Panels being connected together by sewing (columns 4-5), a seam (including #10c) joining the pair of front panels (best seen in figures 4a, 6), and a seam (including #20b) joining the front and rear sections (best seen in figure 4a)
- Rear section including a rear panel (including #20A) and a mid panel (including #20B), the mid panel being connected to the rearward extending section (near #10b) and to the rear panel (at #20a; best seen in figure 4a)
- Mid panel including a gas inlet opening (including opening in #20B near seam #20a) able to receive pressurized gas from a gas generator/inflator (including #5) positioned in a container (including #6)
- Rearward extending section and mid panel dividing the air bag into upper and lower chambers (best seen in figure 4a)
- Rearward extending section including at least one opening (#25) formed therein and able to allow gas to pass between the chambers (best seen by arrows in figure 4a)

Takeda et al. do not disclose the air bag being reversed through an unsewn portion of the rear panel or the seams joining the panels being located away from the

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exterior surface. Okada et al. teach an air bag (for example, #110) comprising multiple panels (including #116, 117) connected by sewing at seams (column 8, line 26-28; best seen in figure 9), the air bag being reversed through an unsewn portion so that the seams are located away from the exterior surface (column 9, lines 41-48). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify the air bag of Takeda et al. such that it comprised the air bag being reversed through an unsewn portion of the rear panel and the seams joining panels being located away from the exterior surface as claimed in view of the teachings of Okada et al. so as to prevent the seams from being exposed on the outside surface of the air bag (Takeda et al.: column 9, lines 41-48), which would prevent contact of a passenger with the seams when the air bag deploys.

Response to Arguments

6. In regards to claims 2-7, the examiner has withdrawn the indication of allowable subject matter.

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Musiol et al. disclose an air bag including a rearward extending member with openings therein and multiple panels making up the air bag.

Amamori discloses an air bag including a rearward extending member with an opening therein.

Wang et al. disclose an air bag including multiple panels.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura B. Rosenberg whose telephone number is (571) 272-6674. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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